

1 **Claim 1. through Claim 17. (cancelled)**

1 **Claim 18. (currently amended)** A classification and management system for
2 patients with lower extremity arterial occlusive disease comprising a network
3 of remotely located computers ~~integrated to implement the steps of integrated~~
4 to implement the steps on-line of:

- 5 • examining a patient at a healthcare facility with lower extremity arterial
6 occlusion disease,
- 7 • collecting patient data including physically observable conditions of the
8 patient's lower extremities and noninvasive arterial pressure and blood
9 flow data,
- 10 • entering and storing the collected patient data in the memory of a
11 computer at the healthcare facility,
- 12 • transmitting said collected patient data from the healthcare facility
13 computer to a computer at an evaluating authority,
- 14 • receiving and storing the collected patient data in the computer at the
15 evaluating authority,
- 16 • reviewing and comparing said collected patient data against a medically
17 accepted set of disease specific criteria at the evaluating authority to
18 classify patients as "potentially at risk" and "not at risk" of developing
19 complications of arterial occlusive disease,
- 20 • entering and storing patient classification data in the memory of the
21 computer at the evaluation authority,
- 22 • transmitting said patient classification data from the evaluating authority
23 computer to the computer at the healthcare facility,
- 24 • receiving and storing the patient classification data in the computer at
25 the healthcare facility,
- 26 • referring patients classified as "potentially at risk" of arterial occlusive
27 disease to an accredited laboratory for noninvasive vascular evaluation,
- 28 • transmitting the "potentially at risk" patient data from the healthcare
29 facility to the accredited laboratory,
- 30 • entering and storing the "potentially at risk" patient data in a computer
31 at the accredited laboratory,
- 32 • evaluating those "potentially at risk" patients at the accredited
33 laboratory against medically accepted criteria,

- 34 • entering and storing the data results of said noninvasive vascular
35 evaluation in the memory of the computer at the accredited laboratory,
- 36 • transmitting said stored data results from the accredited laboratory
37 computer to the computer at the evaluating authority for final
38 classification,
- 39 • receiving and storing the stored data results in the computer at the
40 evaluating authority,
- 41 • receiving the data and classifying each patient at the evaluating
42 authority against medically accepted criteria as "at risk" or "not at risk"
43 of developing arterial occlusive disease,
- 44 • entering and storing patient classification in the memory of the
45 computer at the evaluation authority,
- 46 • transmitting said "at risk" or "not at risk" patient final classification from
47 the evaluation computer to the computer at the healthcare facility,
- 48 • entering and storing said "at risk" or "not at risk" patient final
49 classification at the healthcare facility computer,
- 50 • referring patients from the healthcare facility computer database having
51 a final classification of "at risk" for critical ischemia with associated
52 extremity lesions and patients with noninvasive evidence of severe
53 ischemia to a vascular surgery facility for vascular surgical assessment
54 to determine whether revascularization is necessary,
- 55 • reviewing the data and assessing such "at risk" patients against
56 medically accepted criteria as "clinical indication for operation" or "no
57 indication for operation" at the vascular surgery facility,
- 58 • electing revascularization and periodic management system evaluation
59 at the healthcare facility or routine wound care and periodic revaluation
60 at the healthcare facility by patients assessed as "clinical indication for
61 operation",
- 62 • monitoring patients assessed as "no indication for operation" by the
63 healthcare facility with increased precautions to monitor for detection of
64 any visible deterioration of the patient's lower extremities that would
65 require reassessment,
- 66 • referring patients having ulcers, pain or gangrene at the time of "no
67 indication for operation" assessment for reassessment,

- 68 • referring patients classified as “no indication for operation” that develop
69 ulcers, pain and/or gangrene to the vascular surgery facility for
70 reassessment,
- 71 • reassessing the referred patient at the vascular surgery facility against
72 medically accepted criteria as “no indication for operation” or “clinical
73 indication for operation”,
- 74 • entering and storing the reassessment in a memory of a computer at
75 the vascular surgery facility,
- 76 • transmitting the reassessment of “no indication for operation” or “clinical
77 indication for operation” from the vascular surgery facility computer to
78 the computer at the evaluating authority for reevaluation as “no
79 indication for operation” or “clinical indication for operation”,
- 80 • transmitting the reevaluation from the evaluating authority computer to
81 the computer at the healthcare facility with the appropriate medical
82 procedure and regimen,
- 83 • treating and monitoring patients classified as “not at risk”, “at risk” and
84 assessed as “no indication for operation” or “clinical indication for
85 operation” at the healthcare facility,
- 86 • receiving and storing patient treatment and progress data in the
87 memory of the computer at the healthcare facility,
- 88 • providing “not at risk” patients without limb ulcers routine care and
89 precautions at the healthcare facility,
- 90 • providing “not at risk” patients with limb ulcers routine wound care at the
91 healthcare facility,
- 92 • providing “not at risk” patients with limb ulcers periodic reevaluation by
93 the evaluating authority,
- 94 • entering and storing the periodic patient reevaluations in the memory of
95 the computer at the evaluating authority,
- 96 • providing “at risk” patients assessed as “no indication for operation” or
97 “operation not elected by patient”, and “clinical indication for operation”
98 patient undergoing revascularization at the vascular surgery facility with
99 intensive wound care at the healthcare facility,
- 100 • entering and storing patient treatment and evaluation of patients in the
101 memory of the computer at the vascular surgery facility,
- 102 • transmitting the patient treatment and evaluation data of patients from
103 the vascular surgery facility to the healthcare facility,

- 104 • receiving and storing the patient treatment and evaluation data of
- 105 patients in the computer at the healthcare facility,
- 106 • reviewing and providing periodic reevaluations of "at risk" patients data
- 107 assessed as "no indication for operation" or "operation not elected by
- 108 patient" with increased precautions at the healthcare facility.